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BOYCOTT JAPANESE TRADESMEN

Plan Suggested at Meeting of Builders.

MISS COMAN HAS LABOR SOLUTION

Practical Address Which Received the Thanks of Builders and Traders Exchange.

As a result of the address of Miss Catherine Coman of Wellesley, presented last night before the Builders and Traders' Exchange of Honolulu, steps may be taken in the near future to have the planters, business men and working men meet for a discussion of the labor problem with a view to boycotting Asiatic labor outside that employed in the cane fields. The sentiment was expressed both by members of the Exchange and the Trade Council that such a course would probably be helpful to all non-Asiatics residing here and would produce results which would cause an influx of white laborers into the Islands. It was stated that the merchants of Honolulu were beginning to feel the pinch of competition by Asiatics and to understand that it is to their interest to throw trade to white men, and not to Japanese and Chinese.

Members of the two trades organizations came out at the meeting flat-footed in favor of a restricted immigration of Chinese for agricultural purposes only and for a limited number of years to run, to be returned to China at the expiration of their terms. The suggestion was made that this would tend to drive the Japanese laborers into the cities and towns and thereby displace American and all white laboring men and mechanics. It was this probability that suggested the meeting of planters, business and workingmen to arrive at a basis of employing none but non-Asiatic laborers and to trade only with non-Asiatics as well.

Miss Coman presented a novel scheme as a remedy for the present labor difficulties, that as between Japanese and Chinese the latter were preferable as field laborers, and that they be imported in limited numbers for a period of ten years as plantation laborers, only in the cane fields but not in and about the mills, as at the end of this decade other means, notably improvements in machinery and possibly the gradual introduction of white laborers, would put the plantations on a different basis.

Miss Coman was introduced by W. W. Harris, who said that the distinguished economist was in the Hawaiian Islands looking up labor conditions and that she hoped to obtain information of value from the members. Miss Coman said she was hardly in a position to present a solution of the problem, but that she had some suggestions, the result of her observations while touring the Islands and visiting various plantations. She went over the past efforts of the planters to bring laborers of various nationalities into the Islands as experiments, dating from the early fifties, when an attempt was made to introduce Polynesians as field workers, then Norwegians, Portuguese, Germans, Chinese, Japanese, negroes, Spanish, Porto Ricans, and others. A serious effort had been made to get white labor, but without success. The only classes glad to work on the plantations were the Chinese and Japanese. Today the larger proportion of laborers on a plantation are Japanese.

"We are all eager that Hawaii should be a white man's country," said she, "a Hawaii for Americans. The question is how to make it so and keep it so. I have discussed the labor situation with some of the thoughtful men of the islands. I think that the contract form of labor is repugnant to the American. If a restricted importation of Chinese fails in Congress what next? So far as I can observe it is then more Japanese. If the plantations fail, most of the rest of you will go out of business also. Most of the work in the islands depends more or less upon the success of the plantations.

"No one here wishes for a moment to contemplate the failure of the plantations. It would mean a business collapse, an industrial crisis from which it would take a long time to recover. It has seemed to me so far as our social, political and industrial conditions here are concerned there is no choice, and that choice would fall to the Chinese limited to a certain period of years. Between the Japanese and the Chinese, it is preferable from my observations to have the Chinese.

"What I should very much like is that the plantations should secure this restricted importation for a period of ten years, they pledging themselves that it was for this term only, and that they must so adjust themselves to some methods for carrying on the sugar plantations at the end of that time, that the change will not be felt. That would be my idea of a solution of the labor problem. I heartily hope that the day is not far off when the Hawaiian Islands will be occupied in great part by white farmers. I regard the American, self-supporting, independent farmer as the corner stone of the state. This change I have suggested cannot come in one, two or three years, but can in ten years if the land laws are changed to meet conditions. In the meantime how are the plantations to be carried on? How is the industrial prosperity to be continued?"

Various members of the two organizations present made statements, some in the nature of replies to Miss Coman's suggestions and inquiries. One or two went back into political history and instead of suggesting a remedy for present conditions preferred to call up old political rows. The talk was quite general and some excellent suggestions were made.

J. H. Craig, John Bowler, Carl Taylor and others said they favored the importation of Chinese under certain conditions, providing that this did not throw the Japanese upon the cities to compete with the white mechanics.

Carl Taylor said the Japanese were more feared here by the mechanics than the Chinese, as they had worked their way into every known trade here. Mr. Harris said there were 36,000 Japanese in the cities and towns not now employed in the fields. If these or a portion of them could be gotten back to the plantations it would assist in solving the question. Getting them back would create a demand for white labor to come here.

J. H. Craig presented a fair statement of the situation. Chinese and Japanese laborers must be retained until replaced by American labor. The Chinaman had degraded cane field labor. His experience had been that white men can do the work but how can such men be brought here to perform it? "The situation," said he, "is this: We must have labor or the plantations must go to the wall. Personally I am in favor of Chinese—a limited number for importation—to be returned to China and not permitted to drift into the cities. We have got to prevent these Asiatics already here from entering into competition with the white men. It is not the working man who can accomplish this, but he has to combine with the business man. We have got to be fair and we must meet the planters. We are a cane-producing country—there is more money in sugar than anything else—therefore it is best to continue that industry. We are taking the labor matter up because the Merchants' Association feels the pinch. The merchant is not like the workingman, who, if conditions are not to his liking, can pack his trunk and go. The majority of the retail merchants understand this and I feel sure it is going to result in some good for the workingman of this country. I don't think it was or is intentional on the part of the plantations to put the Asiatic in competition with the white mechanic, it is only thoughtlessness.

"The planters are a good class of men—no better anywhere. I believe from this on the merchants will bring influence to bear upon the Chamber of Commerce to employ only white laborers, for unless something is done there will be very few white men in this country other than the sugar planters. If all business men would put a clause in their specifications and plans that no Asiatics shall be employed that would be a long step toward bringing about the desired result.

"As it stands, I am in favor of the importation of a limited number of Chinese for a limited time to work as agricultural laborers."

John F. Bowler gave a sensible, fair presentation of the situation. He favored a contract system in the islands. It was the only way in which the sugar plantations could be made successful producers. At present the plantation managers were slaves to the Japanese laborers. The latter were independent and the least pressure put upon them by the manager resulted in their quitting. The lack of necessary laborers had resulted in the plantations cutting off their dividends. Before annexation when some authority could be exercised over the Japanese they worked to the extent that more than fifty per cent more was accomplished. Their efficiency had fallen off fifty per cent, despite the fact that wages had been raised. Mr. Bowler favored a limited importation of Chinese, and thought this would either send back from the cities thousands of Japanese or compel them to return to Japan.

A vote of thanks was tendered Miss Coman by the Exchange for her address.

The Siberia's Mission.

In a prominent position on board the new Pacific liner Siberia is a brass plate bearing an inscription which quotes as follows from a speech of Collis P. Huntington: "Let us devote ourselves to the work of turning toward the United States the great commerce of the Orient, which has for so many years been going westward and enriching the nations which have hitherto controlled the great traffic. We must turn the current of that trade from the setting to the rising sun."

THE LABOR ISSUE IN THE ISLANDS

Alfred Stead's Exhaustive Article as It Appears in the Current Collier's Weekly.

A Careful Review of an Economic Problem Which Presents Many Phases of Special Interest to Statesmen at Washington.

The United States the Greater has just come through one of the most serious industrial crises of the century—a hand-to-hand contest between capital and labor, whose scars are not yet healed. While this tremendous struggle has been going on let us see what has been doing in an American country which it would be well for the American toiler to remember more frequently—"the United States of the Pacific"—Hawaii, the land of sugar and coffee, and many other things.

Small as are the Hawaiian Islands, and insignificant as they may seem when compared to other portions of the United States, yet they contain an object lesson which statesmen at Washington would do well to study on the eve of the reconvening of Congress. The labor problem in all its ramifications is the one huge question which today holds the attention of the entire civilized world. The labor problem of the Hawaiian Territory contains many aspects which must be encountered in the development of the Philippines. It is true that the lessons are in miniature, but this has only the effect of rendering them more easily studied and learned.

The difficulty of obtaining labor from the outside to cultivate fresh territory is here very clearly demonstrated. Every year it becomes more and more difficult to obtain fresh supplies of the same labor at a workable price and thus Hawaii has become a regular sample land of unskilled laborers.

The Hawaiian Territory has an area of 6,449 square miles, and the Philippines one of 52,500 square miles—thus the area of the latter is about eight times as great as the former. In the Hawaiian Territory the land is capable of sustaining a population of 500,000; and at present there are only about 120,000. Thus there are necessarily vast tracts of country totally untouched, and the question inevitably obtrudes itself, if this is the case in Hawaii, will it not be much more so in the larger group of islands?

WORKERS OF MANY RACES.

The reciprocity treaty with the United States in 1876 had created an urgent need for labor, and an attempt was made to utilize Hindoo coolies; but discouraging reports caused the idea to be abandoned. In 1878, 930 Portuguese laborers were introduced without having signed contracts before arrival. This condition was, however, made compulsory in the same year. The success of these laborers led to an immigration treaty being signed with Portugal, under which 7,000 immigrants arrived within the next six years—chiefly from the Azores and Madeira. During the six years from 1878 to 1884 upward of 2,000 South Sea Islanders were introduced, but without success. It may be noted that it has always been found difficult to induce immigration to the Islands owing to the fact that the government had no land to grant as homesteads to the immigrants.

In 1884 the Japanese government consented to allow emigration to Hawaii, and in the following year 956 Japanese arrived. A lack of proper arrangements led to a suspension of the inflow, but in March, 1886, the emigration convention was signed. The immigration assumed such large proportions as to lead the Hawaiian authorities to believe that it would become unmanageable. Accordingly several of the ships containing Japanese laborers were sent back without being allowed to land their passengers. A diplomatic rupture resulted, which was about to be referred to arbitration when the annexation of Hawaii caused a hurried payment of $75,000 in settlement of her claim for damages. Between 1886 and 1896 there were 32,056 Japanese immigrants, and only 8,969 departures back to Japan. In 1899, 20,558 males, 4,922 females and 633 children arrived, a total of 26,103 (out of a total immigration of 32,725); and only 2,780 left—2,074 men, 417 women and 289 children. And these figures must be considered in the light of the fact that there are no longer any assisted passages, all laborers having to pay thir own fares.

Attempts to introduce Porto Rican laborers are now being made, arrangements having been concluded for the supply of nearly 10,000 of whom some 2,000 have already been sent in 1901. Negroes have been tried, but have caused endless trouble, and the planters do not favor further immigration. Recently Portuguese from Massachusettes, and Greeks, were being brought to the islands. The latter show much disinclination to come; of a body of 62 on their way only 14 arrived at their destination. It has never been found feasible to induce large bodies of white immigrants to come, though the authorities tried hard to induce white immigration.

The total number of laborers of all nationalities on the plantations on December 31, 1899, was about 30,500, of whom some 20,640 were under contract. The Hawaiian Territorial act, however, put an end to all such contracts made since the annexation of the Islands to the United States.

PROFIT SHARING.

Since the contract system has been abolished a system of profit-sharing between planters and employes has been introduced with much success. To quote from the "Handbook on the Sugar Industry of the Hawaiian Islands": "At the well-known Ewa Plantation, nearly 600 Asiatics and a small group of Americans are now cultivating cane upon the following co-operative basis. The plantation with its steam plows and special equipment prepares and plants the ground and gives the cane its first irrigation. It also furnishes the laborer with free house, fuel and water, a garden plot and medical service if needed. Cultivating tools, water for irrigation, and movable railroad track for harvesting the cane are all furnished free. The plantation also makes monthly advances of cash (without interest) for the living expenses of the laborer. The laborer agrees to cultivate and strip the cane, and cut and deliver it on the cars, under general direction of the plantation manager. On his failing to do so properly, the manager is privileged to do the work and charge the same to the tenant at regular rates of wages. At the mill the cane is weighed and the laborer receives one-sixth of the sale proceeds, the entire cost of manufacture being borne by the plantation. Immediately after grinding, settlement is made with the worker at a fixed rate per ton of sugar; later, when the returns are had on that shipment, any balance due the laborer is paid over to him. Contracts for cultivation are usually made to cover an entire field, the ground being subdivided among a group of laborers, assigning about seven acres to Asiatics and ten acres to American laborers. On this basis it is expected that white laborers will make about $40 per month and Asiatics in proportion. This, with free house rent, fuel, water and garden, is certainly a very fair return for unskilled labor."

As to the positions filled by the different races, a rough division may be made as follows: The Portuguese are the teamsters and lower overseers (lunas); the Hawaiians are employed in light work and about the mills; Chinese, Porto Ricans and Negroes do simply coolie work in the fields and the mills; while the Japanese are to be found everywhere. Practically all skilled workmen, as well as a great portion of the field laborers, are Japanese. For instance, on one plantation on the Island of Oahu, The Waialua Agricultural Company, Limited, where there are 2,100 men employed, over 1,000 of them are Japanese. There are 200 Portuguese and 40 whites, about 200 Porto Ricans, and the rest mainly Chinese. On this plantation there are also about 100 Japanese women employed, who earn up to $16 a month. Their household work is so slight that the women find it easy to work in the fields and add to the household revenue. This plantation may be taken as typical of all the others; as, although of comparatively recent establishment, it will soon have the largest output of any in the Islands, and it is equipped with the newest and most perfect machinery. All this machinery is run by Japanese engineers, there being only three white engineers to superintend the work. In the mill the large pump which supplies all the water necessary for the extraction of the sugar is in absolute charge of a Japanese engineer.

The plantation hours are from 6 a. m. to 4:30 p. m., with half an hour for lunch and Sunday a holiday. In addition to the day gangs there are night workmen, who are principally employed in irrigation and in clearing the dead leaves from the fields. The wages for field work average $18 per moth, while the skilled laborers earn $30 or even $40 per month. All the men pro-

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FRAUDS FOUND IN MAIL IN THE HONOLULU POSTOFFICE

Newspaper Parcels Are a Favorite Class in Which to Send Jewelry---Cloth and Valuables Which Are Seized by Officials.

Don't send stick pins, rings, necklaces, lace or plain handkerchiefs, letters or anything else of a different class, in a bundle of newspapers if you want Uncle Sam's postal department to deliver it to the addressee. The chances are ten to one that a watchful postal clerk will ferret out the fraud, hold up the package in the office and possibly bring a criminal action against the sender.

Chief Clerk Louis Kenake of the local postoffice says that as Christmas approaches such frauds are beginning to be discovered. When a reporter inquired of him yesterday whether such frauds were already cropping up, that official pointed to a paper lying on his desk from which the wrapper had been broken. He said that a Honolulan had attempted to send jewelry concealed in a newspaper to a friend in the States and that the jewelry was in the possession of the postal authorities.

"We keep a very close watch of newspaper packages at this time of the year," said he, "both in the outgoing and incoming mails. Newspapers are second class matter, and senders try to kill two birds with one stone, or in other words, endeavor to save postage by putting in gifts, hoping that the bulk of the newspaper will prevent its being discovered in the rush of the holidays. There are many ways in which a postal clerk discovers that a newspaper package contains something in it that does not belong to that class. Often in just feeling the package or squeezing it the clerk intuitively knows that it contains a letter. There is something in the 'feel' at times which tells him also that a piece of cloth of some description has been rolled up. Often his fingers happen to just close over the place which is hard and then that indicates jewelry. In cancelling the stamps on newspaper parcels the clerk quite frequently discovers contraband objects. No doubt much stuff sent in this manner reaches the addresses but the sender is taking a mighty big chance.

"I can't explain to you just how a clerk receives a 'hunch' that a newspaper roll contains contraband materials, but after long experience with mail matter he comes to know it instinctively. It's the same with a bank clerk who counts money. When he reaches the end of a roll of a hundred bills he has been counting he has an intuition sometimes that two bills are stuck together, and on a careful recount he finds this to be so.

"Then again newspapers with contraband articles inside sometimes pass the sending office without being discovered and then our office here finds it out. Honolulans are prone to send out contraband stuff just to save postage, but this package I have here in which a valuable piece of jewelry is held by us, should warn others not to try the dodge."

Cashier Kenake states that it would be a wise thing for all those who intend to send Christmas gifts to the States by the steamer Peru as registered matter, to have this done either today or tomorrow. If the Peru should arrive Friday evening the chances are she may leave early on Saturday. This being the case there would be a rush on Saturday morning and despite the efforts of all the clerks the packages could not be prepared and billed to go away and would necessarily be left over until the next steamer. Eighteen sacks of registered matter have already been made up and new packages are being received there by the dozen. Packages require but eight cents for registering, which is in addition to the postage required according to weight. The name of the sender and the full address in Honolulu should be written on every package before being presented to the clerk for registration. This will save time both for the sender and the clerk.

Merchandise intended for foreign countries takes first class letter postage. Merchandise intended for any part of the United States takes the regulation fourth class rate.

LAY PLANS FOR NEW PLAY SPOT

M'Kinley Park Is to Be Leveled Up.

BASEBALL FIELD IN THE CENTER

Tennis Courts and Bicycle Path Will be Constructed But the Grand Stand Waits.

Plans for the filling in of the site of the McKinley Park were adopted yesterday by the Executive Committee of the Memorial Committee, and steps will be taken at once for the commencement of the work of preparing the grounds for the next season of sports. The plans contemplate grounds for baseball, football, tennis and a general playground for children, and as well a bicycle speed way, with roads and an ornamental improvement of the lake which forms one corner of the site purchased from the Bishop estate.

The plans provide for the cutting down of the trees in a section of the park lying along the King street and western frontages as well, to form an oval space which will be turned into a baseball field. The field will be about 450 by 300 feet clear, and there will be additional width beneath the standing foliage trees. The plan calls for the construction of a grand stand on the western side of the field, but the committee did not accept the plans for this stand, but will take up the matter of the building later, contenting itself now with the provision for the filling and preparation in general for the grounds.

Around the baseball field and passing between the diamond and the grand stand will be laid a bicycle speedway which will be a quarter mile in length, the path being fifteen feet in width.

The entire play ground will be encompassed by a driveway of thirty feet which will pass on the outside of the grand stand. This driveway will also pass around the tennis courts and down to the lake shore. The committee decided that nothing in the way of the beautifying of the lake will be undertaken at this time, and all the energies of the committee will be devoted to the construction of the play grounds proper. The plans were drawn by Architect Pinkham, several others being considered.

Owing to the fact that Governor Dole will leave in the steamer on Friday, for a trip to Hawaii, a meeting of the committee will be held on that day to consider several changes in the plans which have been suggested, and to order the beginning of work upon the filling of the mauka portion on the grounds at once.

BOYD HEARS FROM DAKOTA FARMERS

Land Commissioner Boyd received tidings yesterday which give him hope that the delegation of Dakota farmers are coming after all, although there is nothing definite regarding the date of their arrival. By the China's mail he received a letter from a Mr. Chester also of Dakota, saying that he had heard of the Giddings settlers coming to Hawaii, and desired also to secure land for himself and a party of his friends. He states that he has been informed that there are several thousand acres awaiting homestead settlement. Mr. Boyd believes from this query that the Giddings expedition has not been abandoned.

Cable Making Progress.

The putting down of the underground cable, if not interfered with by the rainstorms, should be finished early next week, on the basis of the progress now being made. Nearly half the cable has been laid, the daily amount now being pulled into place being close to one-half mile. The work has been somewhat delayed by the number of curves in the roadway, necessitating the pulling in of short lengths and the making of a large number of splices. The conclusion of the day's work yesterday found the cable almost to the bridge beyond the Sheridan road on the ocean front.